

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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P 031750Z APR 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4989

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1827

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E.O. 11652: GDS, 12/31/80

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: PROPOSECTS FOR THE ATLANTIC POLICY ADVISORY GROUP (APAG)

FOR S/P DIRECTOR LORD FROM AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD

REF: USNATO 1801

1. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE PERSONALLY IN THE APAG MEETING IN PORTUGAL NEXT JUNE. WITHOUT PARTICIPATION BY YOU OR ANOTHER MAJOR FIGURE IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY PROCESS, APAG WILL LOSE ITS VALUE. APAG HAS HAD DIFFICULTIES AND A SUBSTANTIAL EFFORT AND A GUIDING HAND FROM YOU WOULD BE NECESSARY TO RE-MOLD IT INTO AN EFFECTIVE FORUM IN CONNECTION WITH U.S. EFFORTS TO ENHANCE ALLIED CONSULTATIONS.

2. THE ALLIES ESTABLISHED APAG IN 1962 TO "PROVIDE THE COUNCIL WITH STUDIES ON LONG-TERM POLICY PROBLEMS REFERRED TO IT BY THE COUNCIL AND, WHERE NECESSARY, WITH SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE ACTION." SINCE THEN, PLANNERS HAVE MET, USUALLY TWICE A YEAR, IN INFORMAL SETTINGS FOR A FEW DAYS OF FREE, UNINSTRUCTED EXCHANGES OF VIEW ON TOPICS ASSIGNED BY THE COUNCIL. (ALTHOUGH THE ALLIES HAVE EXPERIMENTED WITH MORE STRUCTURED PROCEDURES, MOST PLANNERS HAVE PREFERRED THE TRADITIONAL INFORMALITY OF APAG MEETINGS.)

3. CLEARLY THERE ARE ALLIANCE MATTERS THAT COULD BENEFIT BY SOME CLEAR-HEADED THINKING ON BOTH MEDIUM- TO LONGER-TERM PROBLEMS.
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CAPITALS SHOULD DO THE BULK OF THIS WORK.

4. REGRETTABLY, APAG IN RECENT YEARS HAS NOT FULFILLED THE NEED. THE PROBLEM IS NOT PROCEDURAL, NOR IS IT FOR ANY WANT OF USEFUL

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION. APAG'S PROBLEM HAS BEEN DUE MAINLY TO THE FACT THAT MOST PARTICIPANTS HAVE BEEN WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIALS WITH LITTLE OR NO INFLUENCE IN POLICY MAKING IN THEIR CAPITALS. SOME HAVE ALSO COME WITHOUT EITHER CONSIDERED CONTRIBUTIONS OR SUPPORT BY AUTHORITATIVE EXPERTS.

5. I BELIEVE THAT YOUR PRESENCE COULD STIMULATE OTHERS TO IMPROVE THEIR PARTICIPATION, PARTICULARLY IF IT WERE ANNOUNCED WELL IN ADVANCE AND WE DID SOME WORK ON IT HERE. IT COULD ALSO HELP YOU TO DEVELOP AN ACTIVE NETWORK OF COMMUNICATIONS AND CONTACT WITH FELLOW POLICY PLANNERS THROUGHOUT THE ALLIANCE.

6. THERE ARE SEVERAL SPECIFIC WAYS IN WHICH APAG MIGHT BE IMPROVED:

A. EARLIER CIRCULATION OF NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND PRIOR CORRESPONDENCE AND CONTACTS BETWEEN SOME OF THE KEY PARTICIPANTS.

B. MORE CAREFUL SELECTION OF SUBJECTS WHICH BEAR ON THE CURRENT CONCERNS OF NATO.

C. INFUSION OF THE BEST THINKING ON THE SUBJECT AT HAND, PERHAPS THROUGH INCLUSION OF PROMINENT AUTHORITIES BOTH FROM INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF GOVERNMENT.

D. HOLD MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS.

E. RESTRICT MEETING TO TOP POLICY PLANNERS AND IF THEY DO NOT COME ONLY PERMREPS COULD SUBSTITUTE.

F. MORE EFFECTIVE REPORTING OF APAG MEETINGS TO THE COUNCIL.

7. THE MISSION IS CURRENTLY AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS ON THE PROPOSED DATE FOR THE APAG MEETING (JUNE 4-7). IF YOU PREFER ANOTHER DATE IN JUNE, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE IT. THE PRIME REQUIREMENT IS TO PREPARE THE GROUND AHEAD OF TIME AND CONFIDENTIAL

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TO HAVE THE U.S. AND OTHER ALLIES WELL REPRESENTED.
RUMSFELD

CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic DecapTIONing: Z
Capture Date: 11 JUN 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1974
DecapTION Date: 28 MAY 2004
DecapTION Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATO01827
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS, 12/31/80
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740482/abbryudp.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: USNATO 1801
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSECTS FOR THE ATLANTIC POLICY ADVISORY GROUP (APAG)
TAGS: PFOR, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005